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TOWN MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA DIVER PLANS TO END WORLD
RECORD DIVE AT NOON ON SATURDAY**



**Diver Allen Sherrod enters the ocean Thursday
off Lauderdale-By-The-Sea to set a new world record.**

If all goes well tonight and tomorrow morning, Florida diver **Allen Sherrod** will break the world's record for the longest scuba dive in saltwater on Saturday.

The current record for the longest saltwater dive is held by William Gordon, a diver from the United Kingdom who set it in January 2010 in Lombok, Indonesia. Gordon's record is **48 hours, 8 minutes and 7 seconds**.

Sherrod started his dive in front of the **Windjammer Resort** at **10:12AM** on **Thursday, Dec. 1**. If all goes as planned, he will surface at noon on Saturday (12-3-11), breaking the current world record by 1 hour and 48 minutes.

Sea conditions were rough on Friday, but they are expected to deteriorate even further on Saturday. The worsening conditions were what prompted Sherrod to cut short his plans to break the world record by a full 24 hours.

Even though rough ocean conditions aren't a huge concern for Sherrod, they do pose a danger to his safety team divers, who take turns dragging fresh air tanks out to Sherrod, who is in 15 feet of water about 250 yards offshore.

Sherrod first attempted to break the record on Oct. 25. He cut short the effort after just 12 hours, when worsening sea conditions posed a threat to his safety divers. The conditions when he entered the water Thursday were flat and calm.

"The ocean is an uncontrolled environment," he said.

A resident of Groveland, Fla., Sherrod set up his temporary ocean residence in about **15 feet of water** near the Town's newest artificial reef, which stimulates coral growth by using a low-level electric current fed by solar panels.

The buoys housing the panels are being repaired after they were damaged by rough seas earlier this year. The artificial reef is about 250 yards offshore and just south of the Windjammer Resort, 4244 El Mar Drive.

A NAUI diving instructor for 11 years, Sherrod chose the Town's coral reefs because they are close to the beach.

A popular spot for beach divers because of its near-shore coral reefs, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was declared the "Shore Dive Capital of South Florida" by the Broward County Commission in September 1997.

Nicknamed "the grouper" by Windjammer Resort General Manager John Boutin, Sherrod recently set a world record for the longest freshwater scuba dive in Central Florida (five days). During the attempt, he said he lost six pounds.

Except for staying well-hydrated, warm and keeping his hands insulated with petroleum jelly and gloves, he said the biggest challenge won't be physical.

"It's a real drain on you mentally," he said.

During the dive Sherrod limited his food intake Gatorade and chocolate Ensure. He also slept, but not for very long.

When asked why he wanted to set a world record for the longest saltwater dive, he said, "We have a bad economy. I didn't have anything else to do."

The Windjammer Resort has aimed its beach cam on Sherrod's red and white striped diver's down flag. It also displays a "Groupertime" clock on its Web site to record how long Sherrod has stayed underwater since Thursday morning.

<http://www.bytheseaevents.com/>

Here is a link to the Guinness Book of World Record Web site listing the record for the world's longest saltwater dive.

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records-2000/longest-open-saltwater-scuba-dive/>

Here are three cell phone numbers if you wish to contact Sherrod or his safety team:

Allen Sherrod: 352-702-8676

Debby Sherrod: (wife): 352-702-8648

Jose Mijares: (dive safety team leader): 352-552-1923.